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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY: Bolivia

SUBJECT: Bolivia Tin Mines

SOURCE :

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1.

2. The official's opinion was based on the assumption that the Bolivian Government would have exhausted all the blocked-off high grade ore in the mines within less than a year, which should enable the government to make a reasonably good showing, and then be confronted with the poorer ores to handle. Practically a duplication of the situation in Mexico.

3. Two months later, December 1952, this same official of the tin company asked that research efforts be discontinued until further notice but the contract was not cancelled.

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4. An official of the smaller company remarked [REDACTED] that they would not be interested in going back to Bolivia to take over the mines, if invited by the Bolivian Government. They, too, felt that the better grade ores would have been removed. As the mines are marginal producers anyway, it would be doubtful if they could again be operated profitably, particularly with present tin market prospects.

When the Bolivian Government took over the mines, both groups felt they had reasonable quantities of block-off, high grade ores. If worked together, the poorer ores could have been worked on a reasonably profitable basis for a year without future planning.

6. Also, the Bolivians would be confronted with the task of replacing a number of the top technical help, such as the chief metallurgists, mill superintendents, etc., that left Bolivia when the government took over.

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7. One official remarked [REDACTED] that since tin represents about 80 per cent of the economy of Bolivia, he expected some radical political change by the end of 1953, for by that time the tin production should reach an acute point.

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